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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Petersburg Area Office  
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Date: May 25, 2012  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

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#### **PETERSBURG/WRANGELL HERRING SUMMARY**

The department has completed aerial surveys of the Petersburg and Wrangell management areas. The following is a summary of herring observations within the Petersburg-Wrangell management area. There were no spring herring fisheries. Quotas for herring fisheries in the Petersburg-Wrangell area for the 2012/2013 season will be released in November or December.

##### Ernest Sound

In 2012, 12 surveys were conducted in Ernest sound with ~9.7 nautical miles of herring spawn mapped. Surveys were conducted by fixed wing aircraft and skiff from April 9 to May 25. The initial spawning event occurred on April 16 and continued on through May 22. Spawning areas in Ernest Sound were distributed over a larger area in 2012 than in the last few years and included spawning events on Deer and Onslow Islands; however, the majority of the spawn occurred in the traditional areas from Emerald Bay to Vixen Harbor.

##### Windham Bay/Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

There were 8 surveys conducted in the Hobart Bay/Port Houghton area in 2012. Spawn deposition from these surveys was estimated to be ~2.1 nautical miles. Active spawn was documented only in the Sanctuary area of Hobart Bay in 2012 with no spawning observed in either Windham Bay or Port Houghton. Surveys were conducted from April 18 to May 4 to document the herring populations. Active spawn was observed in the Sanctuary area from April 24 through April 25.

##### Other Areas

Aerial surveys in Bradfield Canal were conducted on two occasions in April with active spawn observed on April 6. Subsequent skiff surveys mapped ~15.6 nautical miles of herring spawn. The first spawn in Farragut Bay was observed on April 22 and the spawning events continued through April 26, resulting in ~2.0 nautical miles of spawn. An aerial survey of the southern Admiralty Island shoreline, which included Gambier and Pybus Bay, was conducted on April 27. No herring or herring spawn was seen in these areas during this survey and there were no reports of herring or spawn sighted by local area pilots that transit that area regularly. Port Camden was surveyed on April 27 with no herring activity or predators in the area. Subsequently, department staff working on an unrelated project in the area mapped ~0.5 nautical miles of spawn near the outlet of Slippery Creek on May 15. No other herring or spawning events have been reported by local pilots that transit the area.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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